CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms. Each section is presented as follows:

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, which is containing aesthetic or artistic (Klarer, 2004). Thus, not all writings, such as telephone books, newspapers, legal documents, can be categorized as literature. Literature could be in the form of drama, novel, poetry, and short story. Klarer (2004: 2) further explains that not only the visual—writing is always pictorial—but also the acoustic element, the spoken word, is an integral part of literature, for the alphabet translates spoken words into signs. Thus, here film can be categorized into literature.

Quinn (2006: 165) states that film is a general term for a particular motion picture or for motion pictures in general. A film is supported by audio visual effects from the act, voice, and talented artists or from the background of the story that make the story looks real to give people real entertainment. A film tells about relationship between humans and all their problems. It means that film reflects
human life from which people can take lesson. It is in line with Feuillade’s opinion (in Stam, 2000) who describes film as a slice of life representing people and things. Thus, film is like a real life situation which could be an object of a study to be analyzed because it can be one of the media to teach lessons such as social, culture, moral, or behavior including leadership.

Some people are certainly born with leadership skills, but this is not the only requirement for becoming a leader (Edward, 2009: 4). It shows that everyone has a chance to be a leader because leadership skill is actually brought since he is born. It is commonly known that leadership is needed by everyone either to lead themselves or others. Every country needs good leadership because the leadership of a country touches more than just politics, but also business, religion, schools, community and non profit organizations. Thus, the political leadership is very important in a country because the political leadership of a country determines the kind of country it will become. Edward (2009: 4) explains that leadership involves understanding how to inspire, influence and control how people behave. It means that a good leader should be able to give inspiration, good influence, and control people’s behavior. Thus, it can be concluded that everyone is actually able to be a leader. However, becoming a good and successful leader is not an easy task because he or she has to be able to be an inspiration and brings good influence toward his or her people in order to bring advantages to the people.

Leadership is interesting to be the focus of this study because leadership is important aspect to keep and run the country. The citizens, especially young
generation, need to have good leadership skill to struggle this nation because this nation needs to be maintained its unity.

In this case, a film reflecting leadership is the film under the title 300, therefore, it is chosen to be discussed. This film was released on March 9, 2007 directed by Zack Snyder and the story was written by Frank Miller based on his comic story 300. 300 is interesting to be analyzed because it presents a story about a good figure of leader who kindly treats his warriors, citizens, and family. Furthermore, it is watching for teenagers and adults because there are good messages on how to build leadership characteristics and to be a wise leader. The leadership which is told in this film is about political leadership because it is about the king who leads his troops in war to maintain their country.

King Leonidas as the main character of this film successfully brings his role as a good leader and makes the audiences admire his acts. 300 tells about the messengers of Persian empire who arrives in Sparta and requests the Spartans to obey King Xerxes. Leonidas rejects and kills all the Persian’s messengers. Monks of Sparta forbid the Spartans to battle at the Carneia day, the traditional celebration of Spartans. Or else, the Spartans will get calamity. However, King Leonidas ignores it because he takes care of Sparta in order not to be conquered by the Persians. Consequently the Spartans fight with the Persians. Leonidas with three hundred warriors of Sparta go towards Thermopylae and plan to hold the Persian forces there, in the middle of the journey, the Arcadians want to join them. In Thermopylae, Sparta’s warriors fight desperately against the Persians who are outnumbered. But, in the end, Leonidas with his three hundred Spartan’s warriors
die in the last war. Before he dies, he sends his captain to return to the kingdom of Sparta and sends him a message, "Remember the Reason We Fall!". A couple of years later, Sparta’s ten thousand warriors along with three thousand Greek’s warriors are free to attack Persian’s Empire that still exists in Greece. Retrieved from this story, it can be taken the lesson that it is necessary to build and have good leadership characteristics.

This film teaches the reader to be a good leader by sacrificing his own importance for the sake of his nation’s importance and giving example how to treat people that he leads. The character of the leader here is described as the person who loves his own country and nation very much. This is the most important lesson that the reader can take from this film.

Considering the explanation above, this film can be an inspiration source for teachers to teach the students about the leadership either political, social, school, or family leadership. Hopefully, students can take the message of this film as a valuable lesson which may be applied either to lead themselves or others in a narrow scope such as in a family, or large scope, in a country. Thus, with all explanations, 300 is worth analyzing, especially in terms of leadership aspect.

The previous study related to leadership was conducted by Daniel et al (2013). The study entitled *Facial Cues to Perceived Height Influence Leadership Choices in Simulated War and Peace Contexts*. The study tried to identify whether facial cues associated with perceived height and masculinity have different effects on leadership judgments in wartime and peacetime contexts and
to describe facial cues associated with perceived height and masculinity influence dominance perceptions. The results found that cues associated with perceived height and masculinity in potential leaders’ faces are more in a wartime (vs. peacetime) context. Then, perceived dominance was influenced by cues of apparent height and masculinity in faces. In addition, these findings suggested that facial cues of physical stature may contribute to the establishing leadership hierarchies in people.

The previous study above is different from this study because the previous study is about the influence of facial cues on leadership judgment. While this study is about the role of leadership played by King Leonidas in 300 film, with the problems and its solutions.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the description above, it is necessary to dig out the leadership in this film. Thus, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. How is King Leonidas’ leadership in the film 300 by Zack Snyder?
2. What are the problems faced by King Leonidas when leading three-hundred Spartans ahead of Persian empires?
3. How does King Leonidas solve the problems in leading three-hundred Spartan ahead of Persian empires?
1.3 The purposes of the Study

Related to the statement of problems above, the purposes of the study can be explained as follows:

1. To know how King Leonidas’ leadership in the film 300 by Zack Snyder is.

2. To identify the problems faced by King Leonidas when leading three-hundred Spartans ahead of Persian empires.

3. To know the way King Leonidas solves the problems in leading three-hundred Spartan ahead of Persian empires.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study may give both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this study is expected to encourage students especially English Department at Muhammadiyah Malang University to study literature especially film. This study is also expected to give references to the students who are interested in analyzing film. Practically, this study is expected to give the readers lesson about leadership as reflected by King Leonidas in the film 300, so it can be applied in daily life.
1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the film *300* particularly on the role of leadership in this film. However, it is limited on the leadership role by the main character, King Leonidas with the problems and the solutions in running his leadership.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the key terms, the definition of key terms is necessary to be clarified. The key terms that are used to be defining in this study are as follows:

*Analysis*: A detailed investigation on works which is longer and broader than its application (Arp & Johnson, 2006).

*King Leonidas*: The main character in the film “300” directed by Zack Snyder.

*Leadership*: The process of guiding a certain group of community for the purpose of finishing a task (Edward, 2009).

*Film*: The performance of pictures which are set in order to be in motion (Quinn, 2006).